



The City of Sandy Springs hosted visitors from Taicang, China, May, 7, 2009. Mayor Eva Galambos and City Manager John McDonough gave Ms. Shi Yan Ping, Vice Mayor of Taicang, a tour of the City, of the North Fulton area, of Riverwood High School and of St. Joseph's Heart Institute. Here the mayors exchange gifts.

City Officials Tour China

Mayor Eva Galambos, City Councilmember Tibby DeJulio and City Manager John McDonough visited Taicang, China at the end of November for an economic development trip and also to promote Sandy Springs for a possible friendship city relationship with Taicang. Dignitaries of Taicang had visited Sandy Springs earlier this year.

The group visited Taicang and spoke on the City and the advantages of doing business here. Taicang is a coastal city in the Jiangsu Province of China. It is 40 miles to the northwest of Shanghai. The 2007 population was 463,800 and urban residents compose 62 percent of the total population.

Friendship cities are agreements between towns, cities and even counties in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.

The trip was sponsored by UPS, CH2M HILL and Coca Cola. No residents' tax monies paid for the trip. Representatives from local businesses and the Sandy Springs/Perimeter Chamber of Commerce were also on the trip.

City Celebrates Humanitarian Award Winner

The City of Sandy Springs will celebrate The 5th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and Humanitarian Award Winner on January 18, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500.

The award goes to a person distinguished for humanitarian contributions to society in his or her business, profession, volunteerism or philanthropic life's work. Individuals nominate a living resident of Sandy Springs who instills pride within the community and inspires others. Each nominee must have been a resident of Sandy Springs for the past three years or longer and should embody the spirit and philosophy of Dr. King. Current Sandy Springs staff and elected officials are not eligible.

The City recognizes the winner along with inspirational readings, songs by local choirs and a keynote speaker.



Dr. Myldred P. Hill was the keynote speaker of The 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. This year's event will be held on January 18, 2010.

Anne Frank Exhibit Calls Sandy Springs Home



The City of Sandy Springs is delighted to announce the Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945 exhibit will be opening in January 2010. The exhibit will call Sandy Springs home for a minimum of three years. It will be located in the Parkside Shops Shopping Center at 5920 Roswell Road, Suite A-209.

"We are thrilled to have the exhibit move to the City," said Mayor Eva Galambos. "This exhibit serves as a powerful reminder to our residents and visitors of the Holocaust's history and the endurance of Anne Frank's story. It also shows what we need to do each and every day to triumph over bigotry, hatred and prejudice in today's society. This is one of only three such displays in the world—we are so proud to showcase it in Sandy Springs."

The City is required to raise \$50,000 to offset startup and operational expenses. "I believe this exhibit is will be an endowment for the future. But we can't do it alone, we need the support of our residents and business owners," added the Mayor.

If you would like to contribute to the Anne Frank Fund, please make your checks payable to the Friends of Sandy Springs—Anne Frank Park, 7840 Roswell Road, Building 500, Sandy Springs, GA 30350, attn: Friends of Sandy Springs. If you have questions, please feel free to e-mail Gary Alexander at garypalexander@bellsouth.net or City Councilmember Dianne Fries at dianne.fries@sandyspringsga.org.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org
Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770.730.5600

SANDY

SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source

Winter 2009 • Issue 16

Greetings!



This is a good time to talk about what my priorities are for the City of Sandy Springs for the ensuing months. They are quite specific, and some of you heard me talk about them during the Mayoral campaign in October.

The Roswell Road Bridge over I-285 must be widened. The Public Works staff has worked closely with engineering specialists and determined that an extra lane can be added without a difficult rebuild of the entire bridge. Design work is underway, and the City has considerable funds on hand toward the improvement, including a Federal earmark, which Congressman Tom Price procured for Sandy Springs several years ago. (Before earmarks became a dirty word!)

The congestion along Roswell Road during peak hours and in the middle of the day is due to the bottleneck at the bridge. Many cars want to make left turns to I-285, but the current bridge only stacks three cars at a time in the left turn lane, and thus left turners hold up traffic in what is supposed to be the through lane. This ruins the benefit of our traffic light synchronization along this artery.

We waited several years on the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to fix this bridge (they own it) and alleviate congestion on I-285. But they have reached no conclusion, and so we are asking GDOT to give us permission and financial help to widen the bridge.

We need another transportation improvement urgently: the widening of Hammond Drive from Glenridge to Roswell Road. We have all experienced the congestion on this artery. The ramps to Ga. 400 to and from Hammond Drive will worsen this problem. No widening will occur on my watch that does not adequately protect the continued viability of the adjacent Glenridge and Hammond Hills neighborhoods.

We are all paying the 50-cent tolls on Ga. 400, and several years ago, we were fortunate that our State legislators corrected previously deficient laws so that now all the revenue collected at the toll station must be spent on Ga. 400 and the roads that lead to its ramps. I am actively pursuing this source of revenue to help us finance Hammond Road.

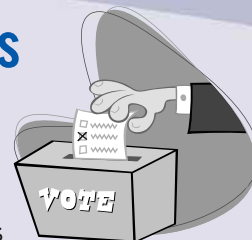
My last major priority is no secret: We must obtain justice regarding the infamous 21 percent penalty rate we pay Atlanta for every gallon of water. It is the same water Atlanta drinks, and there is no justification that it should cost us more. Atlanta has been using our water revenues to pay off the bonds on their sewer improvements. Sandy Springs residents do NOT use the Atlanta sewer system, but instead we are on the Fulton County system.

The water issue is being litigated, and the Courts do not move quickly. But we will not rest until we obtain a fairer solution to our water rates, as well as better maintenance of our water mains.

Eva Galambos

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs

The Votes Are In!



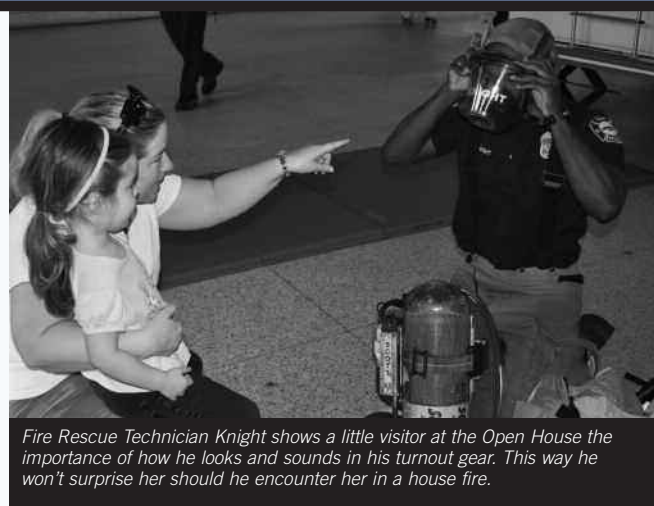
The 2009 City of Sandy Springs Mayoral and City Council election results (official) are in and the elected leaders are:

- Mayor - Eva Galambos, PhD (i)
- Council District 1
John N. Paulson
- Council District 2
Dianne Fries (i)
- Council District 3
Chip Collins
- Council District 4
Ashley Jenkins (i)
- Council District 5
Tibby DeJulio (i)
- Council District 6
Karen Meinzen McEnery (i)

Of the 60,426 registered voters, 8,325 voted, which equals a 13.8 percent turnout. A thank you to all who voted.

In This Issue

- Fire Rescue Holds Open House2
- Public Safety Members Honored by Rotary2
- CDBG Project Brings Sidewalks2
- Fun and Friendship Served Here.....3
- DeSimone Trains at Famed Quantico3
- FHWA Grants Fund Bridge Repair3
- Humanitarian Award Winner.....4
- Anne Frank Exhibit Opens4
- City Officials Tour China.....4



Fire Rescue Holds Open House

The Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department (SSFRD) held a very successful Open House on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at all four fire stations. The event was held in celebration of Fire Safety Week and was open to all elementary and middle school aged students and their siblings.

The goal of the Open House was to learn valuable fire safety lessons from Sandy Springs' finest firefighters while having fun at the same time. They taught children fire safety and prevention through enjoyable activities such as friendly firefighter and fire house presentations.

Firefighters covered topics such as EDITH (exit drills in the home), the meeting place, stop/drop/roll and various other fire safety topics. The Open House also gave students a chance to interact with the firefighters while experiencing a small part of the roles and responsibilities of the firefighters. More than 225 children attended.

Public Safety Members Honored by Rotary

At their annual awards luncheon, three of Sandy Springs' finest public safety members were honored by the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs. Fire Rescue Technician Craig Miceli was named Fire Medic of the Year. FRT Miceli has been with SSFRD since December 2006 and is a nationally certified paramedic and has become a vital part of the Department's focus of providing the highest quality Emergency Medical Services (EMS) possible. Crew Chief Donny Willbanks was named Fire Officer of the Year. He has been with the SSFRD also since its beginning in December of 2006. Willbanks has been an integral part of the Department's team taking on the role as CPR Coordinator. His efforts have assisted the Department in obtaining its goal of educating at least 1,000 residents per year in the City. James Patrick Graham was honored as Police Officer of the Year. At SSPD, Graham serves as a member of the Crime Suppression Team and as the SWAT Team Training Coordinator. His superiors write that he has a strong focus on the Department and SWAT training. He has been recertified as a Taser Instructor and became a team leader on the SWAT Team.



The Rotary Club of Sandy Springs honored our public safety personnel this year at their annual awards banquet. Pictured from left to right are Rotary Club President Betty Ferdinand, Fire Rescue Technician Craig Miceli, Crew Chief Donny Willbanks, Police Officer Pat Graham and City Manager John McDonough.

CDBG Project Brings Sidewalks to Roswell Road



This fall, the City of Sandy Springs initiated a comprehensive sidewalk assessment and design project in targeted areas along the Roswell Road corridor. The project is funded through the U.S. Department and Housing Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The City qualified as a CDBG Entitlement Community in 2008, which provides the City with an annual source of funding for community improvements, infrastructure replacement and other neighborhood redevelopment activities. The City also received a one-time allocation of CDBG-R funds through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the project.

The sidewalk assessment areas are primarily on the east side of Roswell Road from Dalrymple Road north to the Chattahoochee River. A map of the survey area and other CDBG information can be found on the City's Community Development Web site. The prime consultant team of Mulkey Engineering and Consultants were selected for the project. The survey data collected will be utilized for design improvements to the sidewalk network to provide for better access to shopping, public transit and recreation facilities.

Fun and Friendship Served Here



Police Officers and the staff of the Flying Biscuit in Sandy Springs came together to raise more than \$2,800 for the Special Olympics.

Sandy Springs' finest served up some fun and food for Special Olympics. Police officers raised \$2,800 by waiting tables for tips on Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Flying Biscuit, located at 5975 Roswell Road.

"The Special Olympics is a wonderful cause and an organization that we have been working with since the Department's inception," Chief Terry

Sult said. "It means a lot for us to be able to raise valuable funds to send athletes to compete, but also to raise awareness for this invaluable organization."

Each year, the Department has been involved in the Special Olympics' Torch Run and sells items throughout the year such as t-shirts, ball caps and coffee mugs, and the proceeds return to the organization.

The Department also hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Slope's, where 10 percent of the proceeds went toward the Special Olympics.

DeSimone Trains at Famed Quantico

Sandy Springs Police Deputy Chief Ken DeSimone has recently completed an 11-week training course at the FBI Training Academy aboard the US Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. The goals of the program are to afford the appropriate and meaningful education and training to law enforcement executives from municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies worldwide. It will improve the administration of justice in police departments locally and abroad and also raise law enforcement standards, knowledge and global cooperation.

"We are lucky to have this opportunity for Deputy Chief DeSimone," said Sandy Springs Police Chief Terry Sult. "The selection is highly competitive and the current waiting list to attend is five years. He will bring invaluable knowledge back to Sandy Springs that we will be able to use in numerous ways."

The curriculum includes courses on terrorism, cyber crimes, criminal law, police management, behavioral science, forensic science, communications, fitness/health (a robust physical training regiment is part of the course). All courses are accredited by the University of Virginia.

"There were 267 law enforcement professionals from 49 states and 27 countries in my class," said DeSimone. "They come from departments as large as NYPD and LAPD to as small as rural 12 sworn officer departments. There are eight departments from Georgia represented. Networking and information sharing are big pluses. The FBI also gains valuable insight on law enforcement issues from seasoned police veterans."

FHWA Grants Fund Repair of City Bridges

The City of Sandy Springs is receiving a grant through the Emergency Repair Program of the Federal Highway Administration to fund 100 percent of the replacement cost of the storm-failed bridges at Peachtree Dunwoody Road and Riverside Drive. The estimated cost of the grant is between \$4 - 5 million.

The bids for the Peachtree Dunwoody and Riverside bridges were received and awarded November 3, 2009. Massana Construction began on Peachtree Dunwoody by Friday, November 6, 2009. All utility companies were present. Georgia Power began on Monday, November 9, 2009. Tidwell Construction was on site at the Riverside bridge on Thursday, November 5, 2009. They are scheduled to work six days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The City of Sandy Springs Public Works Department met on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, in preconstruction meetings with GDOT engineers to discuss the construction process. The bridges will be complete and open for traffic within 180 days. The State Bridge Engineer, Paul Liles, Jr. is coordinating this effort and has designed both projects. The bridges were damaged by the torrential rains of September 22, 2009. Glenn Errol Road was also damaged in the flooding.